

CLASSIFICATION: **SECRET**  
NOFORN/COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Mecz Div Potsdam

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

PREPARED 16 May 1955

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REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES 5 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - one sketch on ditto, with legend

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. On 18 March 1955, KVP soldiers cleaned 2 SU-76 guns and 1 heavy SP gun in the yard of Ruinenberg Kaserne in Potsdam. On 29 March, 4 SU-76 guns practiced driving at Bornstedter Feld and 80 trucks were lined up in the yard of the installation. At 2000, all windows of the installation were lighted. The Ruinenberg Kaserne was believed to be occupied by an estimated 1,200 men. On 31 March, 6 tanks, apparently T-34s, returned to the installation from driving practice at Bornstedter Feld. Between 2 and 20 April, small details were observed at firing, physical training and drill in- and outside of the installation. On 14 April, two companies of KVP men wearing medium-blue service color practiced with 4 SU-76 guns at Bornstedter Feld. 25X1
2. On 31 March, 150 to 200 iron bedsteads, [REDACTED] and other billeting equipment, which [REDACTED] carried into the installation by about 70 soldiers. The same observation was made on 14 April. The buildings which, so far, had been used as depots were prepared as quarters. On 19 April, it was determined that a former riding hall and several stables were also prepared as quarters.<sup>2</sup>
3. Between 19 March and 4 April, the unit stationed in the Garde-du-Corps Kaserne was apparently absent from the post. Only a few windows of the installation were lighted at dusk. Intensive construction work was under way in the installation. Stables were being changed into vehicle sheds and one wing of the barracks was being completed. On 2 April, some 50 bedsteads were seen in an open shed. On 14 April, 8 soldiers each practiced with 3 x 37-mm AA guns. On 18 April, 6 trucks, each occupied by 18 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epauletts, entered the installation from the direction of Glienicker Bruecke.<sup>1 2</sup>
4. Between 17 March and 15 April, trucks occupied by personnel wearing medium-blue service color and up to 4 trucks towing 57-mm AT guns and occupied by personnel wearing red-bordered black collar patches were repeatedly seen entering the General-Wever Kaserne. At 1000 on 17 March. 25X1

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7 SU-76 guns, 7 trucks, each occupied by 18 KVPs wearing medium-blue service color, and 4 trucks towing 57-mm AT guns and each occupied by 8 soldiers wearing red-bordered black collar patches, entered the installation from the direction of Bornim. Another truck carried soldiers wearing yellow service color. On 1 and 15 April, bedsteads and mattresses arrived at the installation. 1 2

5. On 26 March. [ ] the regiment from the Ruinenberg Kaserne returned from the training area on 24 March. [ ] the AAA regiment from the Garde-du-Corps Kaserne was to stay at Altengrabow until 7 April. On 2 and 16 April. [ ] elements from the Sportschule transferred from the Potsdam Luftschiffhafen to Gruenau on 15 March. [ ] additional 300 soldiers were expected to arrive in the Ruinenberg Kaserne. Two hundred of these soldiers were to arrive on 1 May. On 16 April. the Ruinenberg Kaserne was reportedly occupied by 1,300 to 1,400 men. [ ] billeting equipment from the depot of the billeting office in Teltow was continually shipped to the installations. After 1 May, an additional 100 to 200 men were to be quartered in the Garde-du-Corps Kaserne. [ ] this installation was occupied by 1,400 men on 16 April. An additional 400 soldiers were allegedly to be temporarily quartered in this installation. 1 2
6. [ ] the former Kadettenanstalt on Heinrich Mann Allee was to be vacated by the offices quartered there and to be occupied by approximately 1,000 KVPs; the former Epileptikeranstalt on Heinrich Mann Allee was to be occupied by 1,200 to 1,500 KVPs, and a third building on Dorusstrasse (Waisenstrasse), which had been occupied by an HO administration, was to quarter some 600 KVP men. Prior to 2 April. approximately 100 officers and trained personnel of the unit stationed in the Ruinenberg Kaserne were to be detached for newly activated units. Some 150 officers, NCOs and personnel from the General-Wever Kaserne were also to be transferred to new units after Easter. In late March. 10 to 12 officers, who had been transferred to new units, had taken leave from the billeting office. 2
7. In mid-April. the former Epileptikeranstalt at 103 Heinrich Mann Allee in Potsdam was being vacated for KVP units by the offices previously stationed there. After 15 April. sentries with red-collar patches were seen in front of the main gate on Heinrich Mann Allee. The installation, which consisted of several buildings, was located on the east side of Heinrich Mann Allee between the old cemetery, the "Daheim" settlement and the junction of Horstweg. 2 3
8. Beginning on 20 April. the buildings on Heinrich Mann Allee, which were occupied by local authorities, were vacated. On 25 April, the entrances were guarded by sentries and the buildings were patrolled by KVPs wearing medium-blue service color. It was rumored that the buildings were to be occupied by a higher KVP headquarters. The installation had an estimated capacity of 3,000 men. 2
9. Beginning on 20 April. the former Kadettenanstalt, which had been occupied by the prosecuting authority, was allegedly also vacated for KVP units. It was rumored that, in addition to the one KVP division stationed in Potsdam, two more divisions were to be quartered there. 2

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10. Between late March and 9 April, drill was observed in the KVP-occupied section of the former Sachsenhausen concentration camp near Oranienburg, firing with carbines was held at the firing ranges near the Klinkerwerke and driving practice of individual T-34 tanks near Schmachtenhagen. In late March, exercises were held every night in the new training area near Lehnitz. Many ground signals were observed. 1
11. KVP soldiers daily received instruction on up to 20 x 37-mm AA guns and, apparently, AA machine guns in the barracks yard. In late March, 4 new trucks mounting an AA machine gun or a light AA gun were seen in the barracks yard. 1
12. [redacted] 150 men were transferred from the concentration camp to another post between 4 and 9 April. In mid-April, some 20 young men in civilian clothes, apparently recruits, arrived daily. 2
13. [redacted] KVP units with tanks, guns and mortars were entrained at the Oranienburg railroad station on 13 March. Rear details with motor vehicles left by road on the same day and proceeded via Rathenow to the Kliestz training grounds, where exercises were reportedly held prior to 26 March. 1
14. A large number of KVPs was discharged after 4 April. On this day, 40 discharges were observed. [redacted] a total of 1,700 recruits were expected to arrive. About 500 recruits were to arrive during the night of 12 April. However, only about 200 recruits arrived between 12 and 16 April. The recruits, who were quartered separately, were seen at drill. 2
15. After late March, cantonment buildings were hurriedly constructed in the concentration camp area. Several brick buildings were vacated and were prepared for new personnel. [redacted] these buildings were to be equipped with 600 new bedsteads. 2
16. On 21 April, 17 x 45-mm AT guns were entrained for Doberlug-Kirchhain at the Wildpark railroad station. 4
17. In the morning of 22 March, a column of 36 trucks towing 45-mm AT guns, each occupied by 8 KVP soldiers, passed through Kramnitz en route toward Potsdam. 4
18. Between 0530 and 1000 on 23 March, about 24 light AT guns, 8 x 85-mm AT guns, some 32 trucks [redacted] and some 150 KVP soldiers wearing black-bordered medium-blue collar patches were detrained at the Priort railroad station and left toward Potsdam. 4
19. Between 11 and 16 March, the KVP Kaserne in Premnitz was occupied by an estimated 450 men wearing red-bordered black and medium-blue collar patches. On 16 March, 6 trucks, each occupied by 40 KVPs with full field equipment, entered the installation from the direction of Rathenow. Between 22 March and 3 April, the installation was occupied by some 760 soldiers and about 60 trucks. The entire mortar regiment was apparently returned. Between 23 March and 1 April, infantry combat training, firing with 82-mm mortars in the training area and firing with carbines in the installation were observed. The training involved 100 to 400 men. On 28 March, two senior officers inspected the units. On 1 April, an officer addressed 200 unarmed soldiers. 1

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20. On 6, 7, 13 and 15 April, 10 to 30 recruits arrived each day. On 7 April, some 1,000 bedsteads were cleaned in the yard by about 400 soldiers. On 13 April, about 200 men practiced with carbines and machine guns, while some 800 men drilled at company level in the installation, which was believed to be occupied by approximately 1,000 men. No discharges left prior to 15 April. No heavy weapons were seen. 1 3

21. On 8 March, 6 unnumbered rocket launchers were seen in Rathenow on a train which allegedly carried KVP soldiers.

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22. On 24 March, it was learned in Rathenow, that Soviet units had left the Klietz training grounds and that KVP from Brandenburg and Gnoewen were bivouacking there. 1

23. Between 18 and 26 March, reports of heavy weapons were heard almost every night from the Ferchels-Mahlitz training grounds near Klietz. Two-axle armored scout cars, 57-mm AT guns and 28 T-34/85 tanks were seen in the training area. On 23 March, trucks with timber were continually seen between Ferchels and Mahlitz. On 21 March, 60 tents, which quartered some 1,200 KVP soldiers, were seen northwest of Gross Wudicke. No heavy weapons were seen near the tents. On 27 March, reports of heavy weapons were no longer heard. Except for the depot near the advanced airfield, the area was not restricted prior to 16 April. 1

24. On 4 April, approximately 12 T-34/85 tanks and 25 new trucks [redacted] were detained in Gross-Wudicke and proceeded to the camp near the airfield. On 5 April, 8 T-34/85 tanks occupied by KVP soldiers were seen east of the camp en route toward the camp. On 9 April, 60 new trucks [redacted] arrived at the camp from the direction of Schollene. 2

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1. Comment. It was also observed in the areas of Korps Nord and Sued that the intensive winter training discontinued in late March and that, after 1 April, training at a smaller scale was conducted at the posts. Prior to late March, units of the Mecz Div Potsdam were continually rotated to the Ferchels-Mahlitz training area. Soviet units stayed there at the same time for demonstration purposes. [redacted]

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2. Comment. The report indicates that the number of KVP troops stationed in Potsdam will be considerably increased. The capacity of the newly vacated installations exceeds by far the requirements of the units known to be stationed at the post, even if these units should be brought to their authorized strength. In connection with a total increase of 65,000 men of KVP forces, which was mentioned in the Zentralrat of the PdJ, it is possible that a new corps headquarters "Mitte" and 2 new motorized rifle divisions will be activated. The units of the Mecz Div Potsdam may serve as cadre personnel for the new units. In this connection, it may also be assumed that the troops which arrived in Ferchels-Mahlitz in April belonged to new units. [redacted]

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The personnel strength of units in Premnitz, which appeared to have suddenly increased to 1,000 men and by far exceeds the authorized strength of the

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mortar regiment stationed there, also tends to indicate that a new unit has been activated. The arrival of recruits in Potsdam and Oranienburg was probably connected with the new activations, since discharges, similar to procedures in the entire KVP area, took place during the first half of April. The increase of capacity of the known installations may be explained by a scheduled filling-up of the units of the Mecz Div Potsdam, possibly to their authorized strength.

3. Comment. For sketch of the new installation, see Annex.

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4. Comment. The shipment, which cannot be explained in the detail, may have been connected with the assumed reequipping from 45-mm AT guns to 57-mm AT guns.

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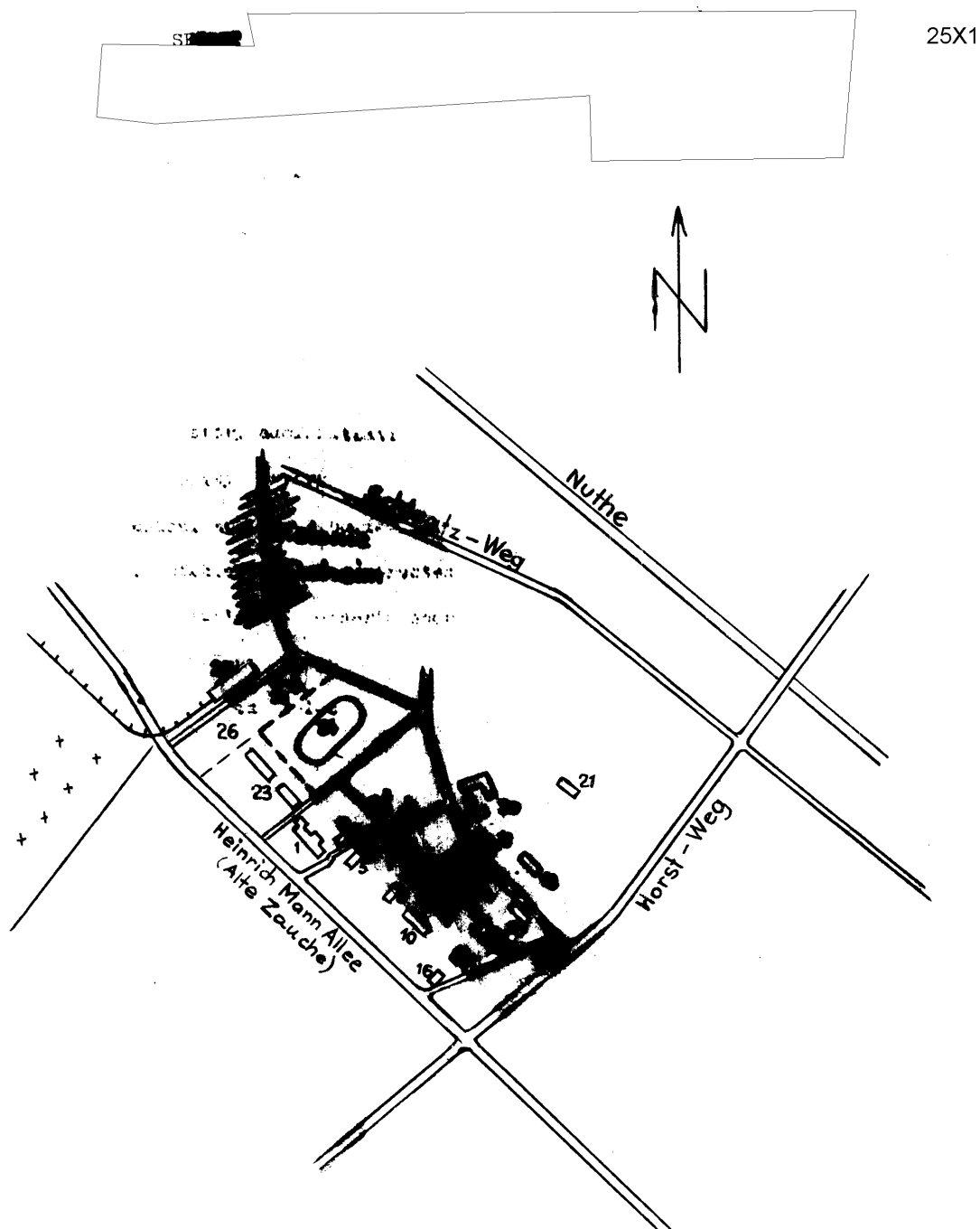
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Legend.

- 1 - 15 multi-story administration buildings and billets (brick buildings)
- 16 university library
- 17 central heating - boiler house
- 18 pig stable, newly constructed
- 19 locksmith's and joiner's shop
- 20 estate, 3 buildings
- 21 nursery with fields
- 22 kindergarten
- 23 Humboldt school
- 24 athletic field
- 25 streetcar stop
- 26 tennis courts
- 27 chapel

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For legend, see next page

